

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MYNYDDISLWYN.



REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1944.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
PONTILLANFRAITH,
Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I have again pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The general health of the community has been very good and from statistics supplied by the Registrar General we have a birthrate of 22.5, a deathrate of 11.5, and an infantile mortality rate of 50.

Notifications of Tuberculosis show a marked reduction, there being 14 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary cases, with 7 deaths.

I regret to report that there was an increase in the number of deaths from Cancer. The total deaths was 15, 5 of which were under 65 years, and 10 over 65 years. In the notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis there was 1 death from Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

Two hundred and twenty four (224) children were immunised against Diphtheria 91 being between the ages of 1 and 5 years, and 133 between 5 and 15 years. There were 7 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year and 4 were admitted to Hospital with no deaths.

Cases of Scabies and Impetigo have decreased. Other particulars of classification of notifiable diseases are given in the report.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Council, Mr. James, the council staff, Dr. D. Rocyn Jones, County Hall, Newport, the staff of the local T.B. Clinic and local medical practitioners and nurses for their co-operation.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	5,415.
Population 1944.	13,310.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to rate books.	3,215.
Rateable Value.	£44,992.
Product of penny rate.	£163.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.1. Public Health Offices of the Authority.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health. | C.G. Mackay, M.B. |
| B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector. | P.S. James, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. |

2. Laboratory Facilities.	County Council.
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3. Ambulance Facilities.	An ambulance is provided by private contract and used for general purposes other than for the removal of Infectious Diseases.
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4. Nursing in the Home.	District Nursing Association.
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5. Clinic and Treatment Centres.	County Council.
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6. Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.	No change from previous report.
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WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of water supply, which is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board, has again, on the whole (during the year) been excellent in quality and fairly plentiful.

It is pleasing to note that with the exception of a few isolated places, the whole of the district is supplied with water from the Board's main.

The Engineer to the Board takes samples at regular intervals and ensures a safe supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in the built-up areas are provided with water closets. There remains, however a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers; these are provided with pail-closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Owing to salvaging the collection of refuse was confined to two days a week.

On the disposal of refuse, the centralized system of tipping and control is being carried out very satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE YEAR.

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year.	792.
(b) Number of notices served - Informal.	178.
Statutory.	15.

SHOPS.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934, and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance, letters were sent to the occupier and the matters were immediately attended to.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the Abertillery & District Water Board.

The sanitary conveniences, and the schools themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and a fairly high standard of cleanliness and order is maintained in and about the school.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Extensive facilities are provided for sun-bathing and games. Facilities are also provided for Juvenile instruction and schools received instruction during the past year. The total number of attendances of pupils who received such instruction was 2,894 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency.

The total number of bathers and spectators was as follows: -

Bathers (Adults)	5,143
Bathers (Juvenile) including school classes.	16,358
Spectators (Adults)	2,534
Spectators (Juvenile)	2,479.

MORTUARY.

Nine bodies were taken to your mortuary during the year. The Pathologist and doctors who have the use of the mortuary are highly pleased with the facilities and modern equipment provided.

HOUSING.1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	323
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	462.
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subheading (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925.	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil.
3.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the proceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	178

(4)

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

1. (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority. 132.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil.

- B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 15.

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

- (a) By owners. 15.

- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

- C. Proceedings under Section 11, 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.

- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, - OVERCROWDING.

The position with regard to the overcrowding in this district is still the same as reported in 1943.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

- (a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector visited the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds within the area during the year and several improvements were effected as a result of such visits.

Special effort was made during the year to take samples of milk from all producers and retailers in the district (in conjunction with the County Health Department) for the purpose of Bacteriological examination.

Visits were made frequently to the shops, bakehouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared for sale.

Vans and Carts used for the hawking of the various food-stuffs were carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

- (b) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority.

- (c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.

All examinations under this heading are carried out by the Laboratories of the County Council.

- (d) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A number of skin diseases occurred in the district, which were dealt with accordingly.

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to Bedwellty Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases of each disease that necessitated removal can be seen in the prepared table "Notifiable Diseases".

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Stroptocide for Puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices and the Medical Practitioners in the district make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teachers of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and bedding are properly dealt with.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

(6)
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>HOSPITAL CASES.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	9	1	-
Diphtheria.	7	4	-
Ectoperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	3	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Whooping-cough.	12	-	-
Measles.	41	-	-
Chickenpox.	24	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following: -

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Public Health Act, 1936.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Non-notified deaths 1. Notified deaths 6. Ratio 1 - 7.

<u>NEW CASES.</u>					<u>DEATHS.</u>				
<u>Age.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pul.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pul.</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
1.	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10.	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	
15.	-	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	
20.	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
25.	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	
35.	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	
45.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
55.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
65.	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	
	8	7	4	2	5	1	1	-	

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the House to ascertain conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where the patients are removed to Hospital or Sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit, has the premises fumigated, and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc., destroyed. In the absence of a steam Disinfector bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING, 1944.Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

Population.	Nett Births.		Total births belonging to the District.	
13,310	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
	240	18.03.	300.	22.53.

Nett deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.	
Number.	Rate.	Non-residents registered in the District.	Residents not in the District.
127	9.54.	Nil	32.

Total deaths belonging to the District.			
Under 1 yr.		All ages.	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
15	50.	154	11.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1944.NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	<u>Under 1 week.</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks.</u>	<u>1 mth. - 12 mths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Convulsions.	-	-	3	3
Asthenia.	-	-	1	1
Gastro Enteritis.	-	-	1	1
Brinichial Pneumonia.	-	-	4	4
Premature Births.	5	-	1	6
	5	-	10	15

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1944.Name of District - MYNYDDISLWYN U.D.C.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" occurring with the District(s).								TOTAL DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT.
	Under 1 yr.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified (Uncertified)									
Meningitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	15
Arterio Sclerosis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	10
Heart.	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	17	27
Rheumatic Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	12
Gastro Enteritis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	4
Broncho-Pneumonia.	3	1	-	-	1	-	1	4	10
Senile Decay.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Exophthalmic Goitre.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthenia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Pernicious Anaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Premature Birth.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Convulsions.	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Silico Anthracosis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Other Defined Causes.	-	-	-	1	1	4	4	5	15
TOTAL.	15	3	1	1	4	10	32	61	127.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

1. <u>CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.</u>	Aged 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years. and over but under 15 years.	Total.
Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1944.	91	133	224

11. <u>CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED TO DATE.</u>	Aged 1 to 5 years.	Aged 5 years. and over but under 15 years.	Total.
Total estimated number of the children resident in this area who are considered to have been immunised as at the 31st December, 1944.	708	2125	2833.

SYMPTOMS		TREATMENT	
1. Headache	2. Stomach pain	3. Fever	4. Cough
5. Vomiting	6. Diarrhea	7. Rash	8. Swelling
9. Fatigue	10. Irritability	11. Loss of appetite	12. Sleeplessness
13. Nausea	14. Constipation	15. Headache	16. Stomach pain
17. Fever	18. Cough	19. Rash	20. Swelling
21. Vomiting	22. Diarrhea	23. Fatigue	24. Irritability
25. Loss of appetite	26. Sleeplessness	27. Nausea	28. Constipation
29. Headache	30. Stomach pain	31. Fever	32. Cough
33. Rash	34. Swelling	35. Fatigue	36. Irritability
37. Loss of appetite	38. Sleeplessness	39. Nausea	40. Constipation
41. Headache	42. Stomach pain	43. Fever	44. Cough
45. Rash	46. Swelling	47. Fatigue	48. Irritability
49. Loss of appetite	50. Sleeplessness	51. Nausea	52. Constipation
53. Headache	54. Stomach pain	55. Fever	56. Cough
57. Rash	58. Swelling	59. Fatigue	60. Irritability
61. Loss of appetite	62. Sleeplessness	63. Nausea	64. Constipation
65. Headache	66. Stomach pain	67. Fever	68. Cough
69. Rash	70. Swelling	71. Fatigue	72. Irritability
73. Loss of appetite	74. Sleeplessness	75. Nausea	76. Constipation
77. Headache	78. Stomach pain	79. Fever	80. Cough
81. Rash	82. Swelling	83. Fatigue	84. Irritability
85. Loss of appetite	86. Sleeplessness	87. Nausea	88. Constipation
89. Headache	90. Stomach pain	91. Fever	92. Cough
93. Rash	94. Swelling	95. Fatigue	96. Irritability
97. Loss of appetite	98. Sleeplessness	99. Nausea	100. Constipation

MYNYDDISLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1944.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

FONTLLANFRAITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I am again privileged to submit my report for the year ended the 31st December, 1944.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
Statutory.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	792

Below is given a list of the sanitary defects which were remedied: -

Main, pantry & W.C. roofs repaired.	69
Eaves, gutters & down pipes provided & repaired.	82
Defective drains repaired.	46
Drains opened and cleansed.	59
New flush tanks in W.C.s.	18
Flush tanks repaired in W.C.s.	41
New pans in W.C.s.	19
Ventilation shafts repaired.	12
Dilapidated W.C.s. repaired.	15
Defective W.C. joints etc.	20
New W.C.s. provided.	-
Houses repaired (external)	71
Houses repaired (internal)	53
Cess pools cleansed.	3
Fowls-cot nuisances abated.	-
Pig-sty nuisances abated.	3
Conversion of pails into W.C.s.	-
Overcrowding abated.	9
Dilapidated back-yard repaved.	19
Dirty premises.	8

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of slaughterhouses on register. 3

Number of visits made. Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT - These important duties were discharged with the same vigilance as in the past.

Since the Ministry of Food brought about the centralization of slaughtering, it was not found necessary to pay visits to any of the private slaughterhouses in the district, as all food animals were slaughtered at the "Buttry Hatch" Slaughterhouse, Maescwmmmer. However, inspections to the Meat Purveyors' shops had to be carried out with the same care as in the past.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or small holdings, and 178 were killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604), the special provisions granted by the Council, and in accordance with an order made by the Ministry of Food.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

In conjunction with the Health Department of the County Council, 76 samples of milk (including repeat samples) were taken for bacteriological tests and the methylene blue tests. Some of the samples were taken at the farm premises, but the majority were ladled out of jacks, serving pails, and churns of retailers in the dust laden streets.

Retailers whose milk samples were not satisfactory were interviewed personally and notified that repeat samples would be taken. If the repeat samples were again unsatisfactory the vendors responsible were reported to the Council and further measures were taken to ensure that the milk was brought up to a high standard.

The most important feature of these samples, however, is in regard to inoculation for tubercle bacillus, none of the tests proving positive. This is a good record and the information is very satisfactory.

Numerous complaints were received of sour milk. It generally applied to milk brought into the district. The matter was taken up with the persons concerned and every effort was made to eliminate this waste of milk.

Visits were made to the cowsheds and dairies during the year, and it was in a few cases only, that the cleanliness was not satisfactory. The farmer was spoken to, and when a revisit was made the conditions were improved.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of cowsheds on register.	45
Number of retail purveyors on register.	37
Number of wholesale purveyors on register.	13
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies.	160

UN SOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following articles were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption: -

CANNED GOODS, ETC.

Luncheon Meat.	75 lbs.	Plums.	5 tins.
Tea.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Beefix rolls.	4 tins.
Cheese.	10 lbs.	Evaporated Milk.	70 tins.
Butter.	10 lbs.	Vegetable Soup.	3 tins.
Bacon.	38 lbs.	Pilchards.	5 tins.
Tongue.	$8\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Mixed Pickles.	4 jars.
Sausage.	24 lbs.	Bentos.	3 doz. jars.
Bitox.	10 lbs.	Potted Paste.	2 doz. jars.
Hako.	10 stone.	Jam.	5 pots.
Beans.	6 tins.		

FRIED FISH.

The premises that come under the above heading were visited regularly. In only one instance was it found necessary to serve an informal notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified: -

Small Pox.	-
Scarlet Fever.	9
Diphtheria.	8
Enteric Fever.	-
Tuberculosis - all forms.	21.
Erysipelas.	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	1

CINEMAS.

Number in the area.	2
Inspections made.	5
Notices served.	-

HOUSING.

Overcrowding was again a matter for careful consideration. A large number of repairs was carried out to house property, but owing to a shortage of labour and building material, the repairs were of a low standard, and, with a number of houses which should have been demolished, but are occupied, there was a general deterioration of house property.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Owing to the strenuous efforts made in past years to prevent the erection of this type of building for human habitation, very little trouble has been experienced during the year in respect to any new-comers and no case has been before the courts.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number in the area.	1
Inspections made.	2
Notices served.	-

INCREASE OF RENTS AND MORTGAGE (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACTS.

No application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year.

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Number of	a.1. - Council Houses infested.	4
	b.2. - Council Houses disinfested.	4
	a.1. - Other Houses infested.	10.
	b.2. - Other Houses disinfested.	10

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying, and in some instances the Painters Blow-Lamp was used. Sprays on loan, and a tin of fluid were supplied to tenants of private houses.

All vacant Council Houses are immediately notified to the Health Department. A visit is then made to the premises and if necessary disinfection is carried out before the in-going tenant occupies the premises.

No steps were taken to ensure that the beds of in-going tenants were free from bugs.

Disinfection is carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The refuse tip, salvage store, and other Council property was visited regularly and baits were laid by the part time rodent operative with good results. Baits were also laid at other places and information was furnished to householders where necessary.

After the sewer treatments in the district there was still a large number of surface infestation but the sewer treatments did certainly cause a reduction in them.

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.	3	3	-	-
Overcrowding.				
Unreasonable Temperature.				
Inadequate Ventilation.				
Ineffective drainage of floors.				
San. Cons. -				
Insufficient.				
Unsuitable or defective.	2	2		
Not separate for sexes.	-	-		
		5		

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

PERCY S. JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.